(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officials working in Indian missions abroad are not feeling secure; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and further steps taken by Government to enhance security network at Indian missions abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Review of security of each Indian mission abroad is an ongoing process. Necessary security review and augmentation have been undertaken, with discussions as appropriate with the host Governments in tune with established diplomatic practice and conventions.

(c) and (d) Officials working in Indian Missions abroad are safe. Based on changes in the prevalent security environment, necessary requisite steps have been and are being taken to enhance security at Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

Assistance to Sri Lanka

794. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any relief/assistance has been extended by Government to Government of Sri Lanka for the rehabilitation of displaced Tamil Civilians in their country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to send all party members to Sri Lanka in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to achieve a political solution of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Government of India attaches high priority to the welfare and rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Sri Lanka. An amount of Rs. 500 Crores has been announced by Government for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Northern Sri Lanka. Several steps have been taken in this connection. Since October 2008, 2.5 lakh family packs were sent to the IDPs as part of the relief and humanitarian assistance. A 60-member emergency field hospital operated in Sri Lanka for six months till September 2009 and treated more than 50,000 patients. India has sent four demining teams and 2600 tons of shelter material for resettling the IDPs in their original areas of habitation. We are extending assistance to revive agriculture in Northern Sri Lanka. About 20,000 agricultural starter packs have been donated by India for IDP families resettling in the North.

(c) There is no proposal to send all party delegation to Sri Lanka in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India has reiterated at the highest level its position in favour of a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all communities, including the Tamil community, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. We have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to take steps in this direction.

RTI of NRIs

795. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many countries NRIs are asking information to Indian embassies under RTI act, if so, the details of applications, country-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian embassies are not in a position to reply the application;

(c) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to amend RTI act so that any NRI can seek information through the Indian missions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. NRIs are seeking information from Indian Missions/Posts abroad under the RTI Act, 2005. As regards details of the RTI applications received and replied country-wise, relevant information is being compiled and will be provided at an early date.

(b) Indian Missions/Posts abroad are responding to the RTI applications as stipulated under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training), New Delhi is the appropriate authority to provide information on any proposed amendment of the RTI Act.

Review of bilateral treaties

796. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review bilateral treaties with any Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details of any such proposals;

(c) the circumstances under which Government reviews bilateral treaties with foreign countries; and

(d) the full details of conditions and circumstances under which Government reviews foreign treaties?